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7. The method of Claim 5, wherein the catechin is

or a gallic ester thereof.

8. The method of Claim 5, wherein the catechin is

or a gallic ester thereof.

- The method of Claim 5, wherein the catechin or gallic ester of a catechin is obtained from a plant.
- 10. The method of Claim 9, wherein the catechin or gallic ester of a catechin is obtained from a plant from the *Theaceae* plant family.
- 11. The method of Claim 9, wherein the catechin or gallic ester of a catechin is obtained from the plant species Camellia sinensis.

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Conta

12. A method selected from the group consisiting of treatment and/or care of dry skin; increasing the synthesis rate of ceramides in human skin; stimulating sphingolipid synthesis; strengthening the lipid barrier of the human skin and combinations thereof for a human in need thereof which comprises applying to the skin of the human a therapeutically effective amount of an extract from a plant or plant parts which comprises a catechin, a gallic ester of a catechin, or mixtures thereof.

Please cancel claim 26.

Please add new claims 27-31:



- The method of any one of claims 5-12 wherein the method is treatment and/or care of dry skin.
- 28. The method of any one of claims 5-12 wherein the method is increasing the synthesis rate of ceramides in human skin.
- 29. The method of claim 28 wherein the ceramides are ceramides 1, 2 and 3.
- 30. The method of any one of claims 5-12 wherein the method is stimulating sphingolipid synthesis.
- 31. The method of any one of claims 5-12 wherein the method is strengthening the lipid barrier of the human skin.

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If entry and consideration of the amendments above requires an extension of time, Applicants respectfully request that this be considered a petition therefor. The Assistant Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee(s) due in this connection to Deposit Account No. 14-1263.



Please charge any insufficiency of fees, or credit any excess, to Deposit Account No. 14-1263.



Claim 26 has been cancelled and new claims 27-31 have been added. Claims 5-12 and 27-31 are now